



THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

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Volume V - Number 1

January, 1965

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

OF THE

MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by MILDRED M. EAVES

Our Society's beginning did not spring to life over night, but through much energy, thought and with many people working toward the saving of the history and artifacts, of our County. These are to be preserved for future generations, for the school children of the County and for all others interested.

On Saturday afternoon at 2:00 P.M., May 21, 1955, many County pioneers and other interested people met in the Chamber of Commerce Building on West Yosemite Avenue, in the Chambers of the Judicial courtroom of Judge LeRoy Bailey, a pioneer now deceased. After the welcoming, the organizational meeting was prompted by Guy Crow, a pioneer of Berenda. The registration of the thirty-six present was handled by Miss Donna M. Eaves (now Mrs. Jack Parker). Many of those present are now deceased, but the experiences and history told by them that day was recorded for posterity. The many incidents told made a deep impression. It was realized much material of historic value was being lost.

A special nominating committee was chosen by those present, and the provisional officers were selected and elected. The first officers were: Guy Crow, President; Lucille H. Desmond, Vice-President; Mildred Eaves, Secretary; Kyrle Murray, Treasurer. The first Directors from County areas: J. Wesley Smith, City; Emma Footman, Raymond; Delbert Secara, Chowchilla; Doris Foster, North Fork; Walter W. Williams, City of Madera.

There was much enthusiasm among those present. Many volunteered information for possible places to meet, and ideas for the preservation of articles that many wished to donate. A museum was uppermost in the general discussion.

The starting of a Historical Society was explained, the reason, the purpose:

"Every community should gather and preserve historical data, articles, letters and papers from pioneers or their families, which would be of value, also gather material from teachers, school records, old business records and articles from businessmen that would be pertinent to Madera County History."

The meeting adjourned, those attending having accomplished the beginning of our present Society.

The oldest Old Timer on that day was Mrs. Emma Parsons, since then deceased. She had attended the first school in 1877, on East Yosemite Avenue, where our National Guard Armory now stands.

Of course this was only preliminary to many hours of work in establishing our Society.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY - (Continued)

There were many meetings held through the summer and fall in the Chamber of Commerce office room, the Director's room above the First National Bank (now Crocker-Citizen's Bank), which were very cramped spaces as more members became interested. Many hours of time were consumed with the reading of the Articles of Incorporation, the correct procedures, but through this we have gained the well formed Society of today. Much credit is due to the able assistance of Attorney John D. Boyle, a member and native Californian, and President Guy Crow.

A seal to identify us was discussed, this to be used on stationery and membership cards. A suggestion was made that possibly Mrs. Vida Booth Ellis, an artist, would help us. She is the wife of one of the early Supervisors, William Ellis. She responded with a beautifully drawn seal, depicting the oxen team hauling logs for lumbering, for which our County is known. The name "Madera" means "timber." The colors of the seal are green and gold when used on the stationery. An enlarged imprint of the seal in copper, (a product of the County) is on the History Book of the Society. On Dec. 5, 1956, a letter, with Honorary Life Memberships was presented to the Ellises. The seal is now also used on the masthead of our Historian, our quarterly bulletin.

Our Historian, which is published quarterly, came into being through the capable work of Mr. Nathan Sweet, Past President. The first issue was January, 1961. He has spent many hours, and traveled many miles to gather material for the content and history published in the quarterly. He is to be commended for his work.

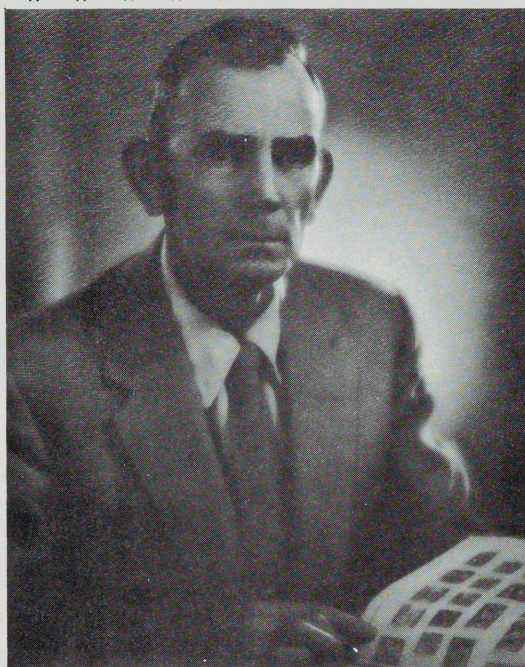
There have been six Presidents who have given excellent leadership. There have been meetings held in different areas of the County, the display of articles in cases in the bank lobbies,

visiting of other historical landmarks, visiting workshops for more information, attending conference meetings, serving on State historical committees, storing and cataloguing articles, typing, and many other jobs that keep a Society functioning.

PRESIDENTS

1. Guy Crow - Madera
2. Judge Marcia Putney - North Fork
3. Merle Goucher Daulton - Madera
4. J. Wesley Smith - Madera
5. Nathan Sweet - Oakhurst
6. Maud Lindemann - Madera

* * * * *



The Society's First President

President GUY CROW was reared in the town of Berenda, north of Madera. He lived there from 1898 to 1902, and then the H. L. Crow family moved to Madera.

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY - (Continued)

CHARTER MEMBERS

Henry A. Archibald *
Janet P. Archibald *
John Boyle :
Rosabel Bryant *
Maud L. Bryan *
Agnes McKee Bradford *
Craig Cunningham * ! : (D)
Guy Crow * :
Joe A. Cappelluti :
C. W. Clawson : (D)
H. Clay Daulton * :
Merle Goucher Daulton *
Lucille Heiskell Desmond * !
Frank Desmond * (D)
Donald B. Eaves
Mildred M. Eaves *
Donna M. Eaves (Parker) *
Laura Eastman
Doris Foster *
Clyde Foster *
Emma Footman * ! (D)
Ethel R. Grimes
Elsie Griffin
Sanford Grover !
W. H. Glas * : (D)
P. H. Gallarda (D)
Blanche Galloway :
Betty Griffin Hoshour *
Ken Hoshour
Naomi Heiskell * !
Mildred O. Kenney * (D)
Katherine E. Kenney *
George W. Kenney * : (D)
Robert C. Krahenbuhl
Maud Lindemann !
Kyrle W. Murray *
Barbara H. Murray *
Stanley E. Murray * : (D)
William H. Mott (D)
Belle H. Morgan * (D)
Art Gonzalles Museum
Harry Nordwick
John E. Owens * :
Isabel B. Owens *
Marcia Putney :
George D. Putney (D)
Winifred Peck (Pabst) *
Edith Rayborn *
Rintha Robbins !
Nathan Sweet !
Muriel Sweet

William Sell, Jr. * :
Franklin Secara *
Ruby Schmidt
J. Wesley Smith * :
Sue B. Schmitz *
Isabel M. Tipton * !
Gladys Hunter Wilson *
Walter W. Williams * :
Isolene W. Williams *
Herbert Weinberger, M.D.
John M. Ward - Librarian
Arthur C. Schmidt

* * * * *

* Pioneer Family
! Teachers
: Former County Officials
(D) Deceased

* * * * *

: Former County Officers

John D. Boyle - District Attorney
Craig Cunningham - Supt. of Schools
Guy Crow - Grand Jury
Joe A. Cappelluti - County Fair Assn.
W. H. Glas - First Constable - 1893
C. W. Clawson - Irrigation Dist.
H. Clay Daulton - County Fair Assn.
Lucille H. Desmond - Political Comm.
Officer
Frank Desmond - Political Officer
Donna M. Eaves (Parker) Asst. in
Recorder's Office
Blanche Galloway - County Librarian
Mildred O. Kenney - Asst. in
Recorder's Office
George W. Kenney - County Recorder
(Died in Office)
Stanley Murray - Superior Judge
John E. Owens - County Hospital
Marcia Putney - Judge, Justice Court
William Sell, Jr. - County & State
Committee Officer
Franklin Secara - Water & Irrigation
J. Wesley Smith - County Recorder
Walter Williams - Grand Jury

THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

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1965 marks the beginning of the fifth volume of the Madera County Historian.

Our Historical Society has every reason to be proud of this publication, which was started in 1961. The Editor and Founder was our Past President Nathan C. Sweet of Oakhurst, who lives on the old historical Josiah P. Kane place on Highway No. 41, the discovery route to the famed Yosemite Valley. We understand that Mr. Sweet, a retired teacher is enjoying his mountain retreat with his wife, Muriel, who is a writer.

Mr. Sweet has faithfully continued our publication, four issues each year containing stories and pictures of Madera County's past. He has done many hours of research to authenticate each article. He has secured many contributors to add their stories to the content of the Historian.

Mr. Sweet asks that he be relieved from his duties as the Managing Editor, and at present the Board of Directors will take over this duty.

We owe much to Mr. Sweet for starting this publication. It is recognized in many areas as an outstanding publication. Copies are sent to libraries of Colleges and Universities. The Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. has requested a copy of each issue.

Each publication brings to life some phase of the history of our County, so that future historians will be aware of the growth of Madera County in the center of the State of California.



* * * * *

NATHAN C. SWEET

FOUNDER-EDITOR
OF
THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

The First Issue - Vol. 1 #1

January, 1961

Quarterly Publication

Again, we say thank you to Mr. Sweet for this publication and invite him to

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN JANUARY 1965 HISTORIAN

The following answers are given, briefly, but are verified as well as we could. (Readers are welcome to challenge any or all answers.) We recommend you file these answers with the January 1965 Historian.

1. There are several "Indian Legends" about "The Devil's Post Pile." One often told is: "The Devil intended to establish his absolute right of ownership of the Sierras and fence everyone out and began chopping the posts but people came before fence could be made."
2. Gravelly Ford was an early crossing on the San Joaquin River located about five miles below Skagg's Bridge. There is no mark there today. The Gravelly Ford Canal emerges from the San Joaquin River near the old ford or crossing.
3. The "Raymond Progress" was a weekly newspaper published in Raymond, established in the latter part of 1912. One copy is in the Historical Society's file of old newspapers.
4. The first postoffice in Madera was located about where the DeWitt Drug Store is now. The first postoffice was burned to some extent during Moore's term as Postmaster.
5. B. A. Hawkins was the first Madera County Superintendent of Schools.
6. "Deke", Deacon, E. E. Moore was the first Postmaster in Madera. He was Postmaster from 1878 to 1888.
7. The "Old Chinese Cemetery" of Madera is located southwest of the Townsite of Borden, on property 150 feet east and west, 250 feet north and south, located on the southwest corner of lot #24, in "Borden Villa Tract."
8. The first newspaper in Madera County was the "Madera Mercury." It was established in 1885; E. E. Vincent was the Publisher.
9. The founder of Chowchilla was Orlando Alison Robertson. Complete story is in the Historian April, 1962.
10. How did the following receive their names?

Dairyland: This district was once a part of the Munich District (Dixieland). In 1915 the name "Dairyland" was given to the district by the United States Land Co.

Dixieland: The Dixieland area was originally a part of the Fairmead Cooperative Land Co. The settlement was called Munich and in 1914 the name was changed to "Dixieland." Mr. Winthrow and Mr. Hobbs suggested the name.

Bethel: This district was settled in 1914 and named "Bethel" in 1920, after the church of the same name was established there in 1920.

11. The first elementary school in Madera City, the Eastside School, was located where the Armory stands today on East Yosemite.

12. The first teacher of the Eastside School was a Mr. Hill. (Best we could do.)

13. A school was in the Borden District. The exact location has not been established by our research committee.

14. Captain John C. Fremont camped in Madera County in April in 1844.

15. Our research committee was unable to get information on North Fork. (Good opportunity for someone to write a good story for the Historian.)

16. Bass Lake was formerly called Crane Valley. The name was given by the Mariposa Battalion. They saw many sandhill crane there, thus Crane Valley.

17. The development of copper mines in 1863 was the major reason for the growth of Buchanan.

18. Two early railroads that crossed were the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe. They crossed at a station called Kismet Tower. The Southern Pacific went from Berenda to Daulton and on to Raymond in 1886, the Santa Fe from Merced on south in 1891.

19. The soldiers camped in Madera in the area where the Valley Market is now located.

continue contributing articles and advising us as we publish the Historian.

All members are invited and urged to contribute stories or articles of historical interest to citizens of Madera County and to all our readers.

ANNUAL MEETING - 1965

At the annual meeting of the Society held Wednesday, January 27th, the officers were elected for the ensuing year. Mrs. George Kenney, Chairman, with Mrs. Clay Daulton, Miss Elmo Clark and Mrs. Guy Crow composed the Nominating Committee this year. They presented the following slate of officers:

Mrs. Maud Lindemann - President
Mrs. Donald Eaves - Vice-President
Mrs. Harry Vollborn - Secretary-Treasurer.

New Two Year Term Board Members:

Mrs. Agnes McKee Bradford
Mrs. A. S. Robertson

Hold-Over Directors:

Mrs. Clay Daulton
Mrs. Jess Ward
Mr. Douglas Houston

There were approximately 60 members and guests attending the catered dinner at the Towne House on F Street here in Madera.

During the evening Mr. William Sell, Jr., a pioneer stage driver of Yosemite Valley, and innkeeper, now a resident of Oakhurst, presented the Society with the long-handled shovel used for the recent groundbreaking ceremonies at the Wasuma School at Ahwahnee in the mountain area.

Other highlights of the evening were the displays of "labor saving devices from the 1900's." The President, Mrs. Lindemann, commented, "We should be thankful for the many conveniences we have in our homes today."

Each of the officers for 1965 has a place in the history in our County.

Mrs. Lindemann is a retired school teacher. She taught 20 years in the northeastern rural area at Sharon.

Mrs. Donald Eaves, a member of a pioneer family of the Kenney's of Yosemite and Coulter's of Coulterville, California.

Mr. Harry Vollborn, retired Vice-Principal of the Madera Union High School.

Mrs. Agnes McKee Bradford, a member of the pioneer Rea family, whose 94 year old uncle, Jonathan Rea, passed away recently.

Mrs. A. S. Robertson (Lillian), wife of Dr. A. S. Robertson, Veterinary Clinic, and Mayor of the City of Madera.

Mrs. Clay Daulton (Merle Goucher), whose father was a member of the State Legislature, and an early pioneer of our Mother County, Mariposa.

Mrs. Jess Ward (Marie Brown) retired school teacher, and member of an early pioneer family of the mountain area.

Mr. Douglas Houston, retired Madera County Surveyor, and member of a Madera pioneer family.

Some of our members have showcases with articles in the town of North Fork, and there is a nice collection in the town of Chowchilla, which was named for the "Chauchilla Indians."

TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 1964

THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Balance on Hand

January 1, 1964 \$ 545.51

Receipts for 1964

Membership Dues	\$302.00	
Sale of Historian	24.50	
For Tips	2.85	
Total		<u>329.35</u>
Grand Total		\$ 874.86

Less Disbursements - 571.13

Bank Balance - Jan. 1, 1965. . . \$ 303.73

(Signed) H. A. Vollborn
Society Treasurer

Disbursements

Postage (stamps, cards)	\$ 101.75
Mimeographing	43.39
Membership Cards, Envelopes	22.72
Museum Supplies	13.62
Dinners for Speakers	5.20
Liability Insurance	16.80
Printing Historian	300.00
Basket Insurance	25.00
Deposit on Savage Monument	20.00
Tips (not collected)	6.00
Receipt Book	3.43
Conference-Cal. Hist. Soc.	10.00
Old Timers' Recep., Cups, etc.	<u>3.22</u>

Total \$ 571.13

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

The above report tells us that we need more new members and that all of us who are members should be sure to pay our dues promptly.

As you can see our source of income is almost entirely from memberships, plus a small amount from sale of the Historian.

Our dues are \$2.00 per year, this includes the Madera County Historian.

Who can be a member? Anyone who is interested.

We commend our Secretary-Treasurer for the time-consuming work in his duties which vary from letter writing, banking and checking membership lists, to keeping the Society well informed, mailing the membership receipts and the mailing of the Historian.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By MAUD LINDEMANN

1964 has been a busy year for us, although it is difficult to record exactly what we have accomplished.

We feel more people are informed about the Historical Society, and membership has increased greatly, but even so, for the size of our County we should have many more.

We are ten years old in 1965. This issue is devoted to the story of the founding of the Madera County Historical Society and a tribute to the many who have worked faithfully over the past ten years to bring it to its present state.

We have presented various types of programs, mostly from the suggestions of members or from Board members. Attendance has been very good at the quarterly meetings.

The President and officers of the Madera County Historical Society express sincere appreciation to all of the members for their splendid cooperation and support.

Let us continue to be interested in the History of Madera County and to strive for our goal:

"A Museum to display our collection of artifacts, pictures, documents, etc."

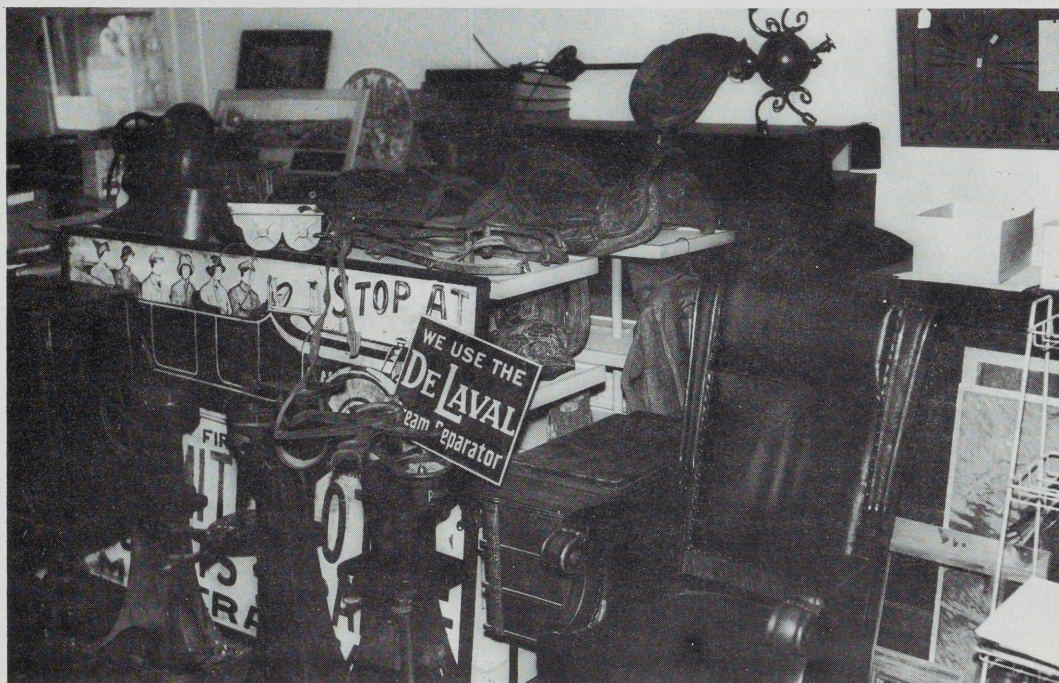
Maud Lindemann,
President

QUESTIONS

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW MADERA
COUNTY?

1. What is the Indian Legend of the famed "Devils Post Pile?"

(Continued on Page 8)



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN IN OUR STORAGE ROOM IN THE BASEMENT OF THE COURT HOUSE.

QUESTIONS

2. Where is Graverly Ford?
3. Did the town of Raymond ever publish a newspaper?
4. Where was Madera's first Post Office?
5. Who was the first Superintendent of the Schools?
6. Who was "Deke" Moore?
7. Where is the old Chinese Cemetery located?
8. What was the name of the first Madera County Newspaper?
9. Who was the Founder of Chowchilla?
10. How did the Dairyland, Dixieland, and Bethel Districts receive their names?

We hope you can answer all of them.

If not, you may do some research.

QUESTIONS

11. Where was the first Elementary School in Madera located?
12. Name the first Elementary Schoolteacher of Madera?
13. Was there ever a school in Borden?
14. When did Capt. John C. Fremont camp in the County?
15. Who was the Founder of North Fork?
16. What was Bass Lake before the Lake was formed?
17. What prompted the growth of Buchanan?
18. Where did the two early railroads cross?
19. Where did the soldiers camp on their way to guard early Yosemite Valley?

The answers will be found in the

April issue of The Madera County Historian. Anyone wishing to contribute future questions is welcome to do so.

MADERA COUNTY HISTORIAN

Contributing Editor . . . Mildred M. Eaves
 Contributing Editor . . . Maud Lindemann
 Advising Editor Nathan C. Sweet

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